



DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES

MINUTES

DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES SPECIAL MEETING TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2021

Call to Order

A special meeting of the Commission on the Arts and Humanities was called to order at 11:08 am, Tuesday, November 23, 2021, in open session via the Cisco Webex virtual meeting platform, with Reggie Van Lee, Chairperson, presiding. The purpose of the special meeting was the consideration of Fiscal Year 2022 Facilities and Buildings Relief (FAB-R) proposed grant guidelines.

Roll Call

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Reggie Van Lee, *Chairperson*; Stacie Lee Banks; Cicie Sattarnilasskorn; Quanice Floyd; Alma H. Gates; Gretchen B. Wharton; Rhona Wolfe Friedman; Natalie Hopkinson; Maggie Fitzpatrick; Hector Torres

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Cora Masters Barry; Kymber Menkiti; Maria Rooney; Carla Sims; José Alberto Uclés; MaryAnn Miller; Derek Younger

STAFF ATTENDEES:

Heran Sereke-Brhan, *Executive Director*; David Markey, *Deputy Director*; Jeffrey Scott, *Chief of Staff*; Kevin Hasser, *Grants Manager*

Quorum

A quorum was determined to be present.

Land Acknowledgement

The Chair read the land acknowledgment recognizing the ancestral homelands of the Nacotchtank and Piscataway Peoples.

Grants Committee Report: Recommendations for FY22 FAB-R Proposed Grant Guidelines

Grants Committee Chair Gretchen Wharton presented the recommended proposal for the FY22 Facilities and Buildings Relief grant (attached). Grants Committee Chair Wharton moved “that the Commission accept the proposal for the FY22 FAB-R grant as presented.”

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: Banks, Fitzpatrick, Friedman, Gates, Hopkinson, Sattarnilasskorn, Torres, Wharton

NOES: none

PASSED, 8–0

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Chairperson Van Lee adjourned the meeting at 11:30 am.

Minutes approved this 20th day of December 2021.



FY22 Facilities and Buildings- Mortgage and Rent Relief (FAB-R) Grant Proposal

November 22, 2021 (update)

Under DC code § 39-205, 17% of CAH's annual budget is allocated to the "Facilities and Buildings" program supporting arts and humanities capital projects. Under that code, additional FY22 legislation further allows support for rent and mortgage expenses of DC arts and humanities spaces and home offices.

Considering this, CAH staff recommends allocating funds to renew the Facilities and Buildings: Mortgage and Rent Relief (FAB-R) grant in FY22. This program would continue providing emergency support to DC nonprofit arts and humanities organizations recovering from the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Building on FY21's cycle, the FY22 program would follow accordingly:

	FY21	FY22
FAB-Traditional	\$2.9m	\$4.3m
FAB-Relief	\$1.6m	\$1.0m (estimated)
Total:	\$4.5m	\$5.3m

OVERVIEW

In the FY21 cycle, CAH funded 80 organizations with an average award of \$20k. One quarter of the grantees were first-time CAH grantees and many have since applied for other CAH programs. FAB-R was designed to be a lowest-possible barrier of entry to CAH. The guidelines are seven pages long and funding is decided on objective pass/fail criteria.

SCHEDULE

CAH staff recommends announcing the FAB-R opportunity ASAP once the DC-required Notification of Funding Availability (NOFA) allows, ideally by December 2021. FAB-R awardees would ideally be announced by February 2022.

DOLLARS (MAXIMUM AWARD AMOUNT)

No-match awards would cover 100% of an organization's FY22 rent or mortgage, up to \$30,000.

WHO CAN APPLY

DC nonprofit arts and humanities organizations with anticipated FY22 rent or mortgage (or equivalent) expenses. In an effort to equitably distribute limited FAB funds, the FAB-R program would exclude grantees already receiving over \$100k in FY22 FAB-T funds.

RECOMMENDED ADJUSTMENTS FOR FY22

- Decrease maximum award from \$40k to \$30k, noting the smaller anticipated program budget
- Allow applicants to apply for 100% of expenses; reducing staff review time
- Formally incorporate home office eligibility, based on an applicant's 2021 or 2020 Form 1040 and accompanying Schedule C and IRS Form 8829 (Expenses for Business Use of your Home)
- Request applicant's expense summary sheet and a highlighted lease/mortgage agreement to expedite staff review time and award disbursement.